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Soviet Replacement Of Arab Weapons Confirmed by U.S.

United States officials acknowledged yesterday that the Soviet Union has replaced a very large portion of the planes and tanks lost by the Arabs in the war with Israel.

American officials previously had avoided confirming reports of a major recouping of the Arab nations' war losses.

But officials said yesterday that they would not quarrel with reports that the Soviet Union has replaced about one-half of the Arab aircraft, and about one-fourth of the tanks and other vehicles, lost by the Arabs. The bulk of the losses were Egypt's.

In addition, U.S. officials, who declined to be identified, said that there is continuing Administration uncertainty about whether the Soviet re-supplying is at or near an end.

No Arms Agreement

When President Johnson and Soviet Premier Kosygin conferred in Glassboro last month, these sources said, the Soviet Union showed no current readiness for joint limitation of arms shipments to the Middle East.

American proposals to curb arms supplies were met, it was said, by initial Soviet suspicion. The Russian visitors indicated they thought the United States was seeking only a short-term arms freeze that would leave the Arab nations at a disadvantage.

Administration officials expressed hope yesterday, however, that the summit talks

had convinced Kosygin and his associates that the United States was interested in a long-term solution — and was not trying to trap the Russians.

Although the United Nations General Assembly emergency meeting on the Middle East so far has produced only stalemate, these officials said, the Johnson Administration continues to foresee prospects for working out a Middle East agreement through "quiet diplomacy," most probably on the edges of subsequent U.N. Security Council sessions.

Jerusalem Problem

Once again U.S. sources cited potential areas of U.S.-Soviet accord on many portions of the dispute. But even if present great, initial barriers to a Middle-East compromise are overcome, American officials said, the future status of Jerusalem looms as perhaps the most difficult problem. The international community's interest in Jerusalem's holy places, they said, put Jerusalem in even a more difficult category than other Arab-Israeli differences.

In the Glassboro summit talks, Kosygin indicated that his country intends to ratify the U.S.-Soviet consular treaty that the United States ratified in March, but no date was given for Soviet action. The President and Kosygin also discussed, it was reported, the long-standing problem of constructing new embassies in Washington and Moscow, and turned the issue back to their mutual administrative staffs.